

passed on to homeowners and businesses. As a result, this provision could have the unintended effect of increasing costs on energy consumers.

By potentially expanding CFTC authority beyond that established in the 2000, serious questions have been raised about CEA's scope and construction and the potential impact these new changes may have on energy consumers, investors, and industry participants. As this legislation heads to conference, I urge my colleagues to thoroughly discuss and address these issues and concerns so that we can be confident that our Nation's capital markets remain strong and vibrant.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT TUCKER

HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, we rise today to honor Scott Tucker, of Petaluma, California. On January 1, 2006, Scott will officially retire after 13 years as the San Francisco District Manager, and 38 years with the United States Postal Service. He is the longest serving postal service executive at any major metropolitan area in consecutive years.

Mr. Tucker's career with the United States Postal Service began in 1968 in Hanford, California as a letter carrier. He held a succession of managerial positions in postal operations, until in September 1992, he was appointed to his current position as the San Francisco District Manager.

As the District Manager, Scott is responsible on a daily basis for the delivery of approximately 10 million pieces of mail to 3 million customers throughout northwest California that ranges from Sunnyvale in the south to the Oregon Border in the north. He supervises a workforce of 10,400 mail carriers, mail handlers, mail clerks, postmasters, and operations managers. In the North Bay we have grown to approximately 3,000 employees spread throughout 205 postal facilities under Scott's leadership.

The San Francisco postal district has for nine consecutive quarters, under Scott's leadership, received the "Order of Yellow Jersey" award for excellence in customer satisfaction and commitment to professionalism. The district has been repeatedly recognized by IBM's Business Consulting Services Unit, as one of the best on-time mail services for any metropolitan area in the Nation.

In the past 13 years, Scott has helped increase awareness of multicultural groups within the district. Under his leadership, numerous diversity leadership advisory councils were established including the Women's Council, African American Council, Asian American/Pacific Island Council, and the Hispanic Council. The Bay Area Federal Executive Board recognized his efforts and presented him with a diversity leadership achievement award.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that we honor Scott Tucker today for the years he has dedicated to consistently improving upon how we all receive our mail. The San Francisco District of the United States Postal Service employees and customers will greatly miss him. He has left some very big shoes to fill.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PANTHERS FOOTBALL TEAM

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Franklin Regional High School Panthers Football team for winning the Western Pennsylvanian Interscholastic Athletic League (WPIAL) 2005 AAA Championship.

The Panthers have had an excellent season with a record of 14 wins. The team, under the leadership of head coach Greg Botta, have worked incredibly hard in the season, and off season, to earn the title of WPIAL.

The Panthers travel to Central Pennsylvania on December 9, 2005 to battle the Pottsville Area High School Tide for the AAA State Champion title. The game will take place at Hershey Park Stadium at 7 pm.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the Franklin Regional High School Varsity Football team. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to salute the determined scholar-athletes, like the Panthers, and their dedicated coaching staff.

PATRIOT ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. RICHARD W. POMBO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mr. POMBO. Madam Speaker, yesterday the House passed the conference report to H.R. 3199, reauthorizing the Patriot Act. While much has already been said about the national security aspects of this report, I would like to commend my colleagues for including the Combat Meth Act in the report. The meth epidemic is sweeping the nation, and has become a major law enforcement problem in California's 11th District.

All the law enforcement officers I meet with tell me that meth is the number one problem they face today. From manufacturers to dealers, and the attendant social crimes they create, meth is devastating communities across the country. Methamphetamine production and distribution leads to murders, assaults and property crimes. Additionally, there is an associated increase in domestic abuse, prostitution, child abuse and neglect, and homelessness. The provisions included in H.R. 3199 are a positive development in the fight against this scourge.

H.R. 3199 will repeal the so-called "blister pack exemption," which currently allows the sale of unlimited quantities of pseudoephedrine. Pseudoephedrine and other major precursor chemicals in meth production will now be classified as "Schedule Listed Chemicals" with a daily purchase limit of 3.6 grams. These drugs will now be kept in locked cabinets or behind the counter at drug stores and other retailers. These measures will help reduce the manufacture of meth in the United States.

As meth is an international problem, the bill contains provisions for international monitoring, and funding for cooperative efforts with Mexico, a source of much of the meth in California. It also strengthens federal penalties against meth smugglers and traffickers.

Finally, there is language to clarify that employers registered under the Controlled Substances Act may ask prospective employees about prior drug convictions, as a safeguard to ensure that people with access to controlled substances do not pose risks to the public welfare. This clarification is necessary to stop the diversion of drugs from pharmacies for illegal purposes. Currently, in many states, employers are not allowed to ask this critical question.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Methamphetamine Caucus, I applaud the passage of this important language. While we still have a long way to go in the war on meth, this is certainly a step in the right direction.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MEL KING

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Robert "Sonny" Smith who was recently inducted into the Babe Ruth Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth Baseball was started as a "grass roots" movement in the small, rural communities of Colorado. The town of Las Animas is no exception, and like most towns, the Babe Ruth program has flourished because of the efforts and actions of volunteers like Sonny who stepped up to the plate to serve others.

Sonny's involvement with Babe Ruth began around 1982. He was the District 2 Commissioner for 10 years and then became the Assistant State Commissioner for the 15 year-old Babe Ruth program. He has held that position from 1992 to the present time.

Sonny has not just been active in Babe Ruth in his community, but in other endeavors as well. He was the Las Animas Ball Association Vice President from 1978–1980. He served as a Las Animas City Councilman from 1982–1986 and was the chairman for the Parks and Swimming Pool committees. Sonny was a member of the Las Animas School Board from 1996–2000. He has been a member of the Bent County Recreation Committee from 1978 to the present time. He served on the St. Mary's Catholic Church Council from 1988–1992, and he has served as a football, baseball, softball, and basketball official from 1978 to the present time.

One of Sonny's most notable achievements was his work on the Ad Hoc Committee for building the new baseball field in Las Animas from 1998–2004. This field has hosted many area tournaments, as well as the local Babe Ruth League games.

Where does this man get the energy to accomplish these feats? I believe it comes from a strong desire to see the young people in his community and around the state have an opportunity to participate and excel in the great game of baseball.

Sonny has been a very valuable member of the Colorado Babe Ruth League, Inc. management team. His good-natured attitude and

"laid back" style have served him well when handling issues that come up at the various levels of tournament play. He has even worked on Babe Ruth Tournaments for the Midwest Region.

Because of Sonny's love for kids and his commitment to the Babe Ruth program, he has been welcomed into the Colorado Babe Ruth Hall of Fame, and I am proud to represent such a fine individual in the U.S. Congress. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Robert "Sonny" Smith for his outstanding contributions to his community.

ON "EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THAT THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT DEPLORABLY INFRINGED ON PARENTAL RIGHTS IN FIELDS V. PALMDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT."

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today this House considers a resolution to condemn a ruling by a United States Court of Appeals. Whether we agree with the Court's decision or not, the Court returned its decisions based on Constitutional law. A Congressional resolution in reaction to the Palmdale School District's part in the development and use of the survey tool would be the more appropriate role for this Congress. The Palmdale School District, not the Court, failed the parents and students. Parents have the right to a final say in the type of education their child receives and the right to deny their child's participation in surveys and research. Parents can only do so when they are given full and accurate information.

As a Member of Congress, it is my role to create, consider, and vote on legislation. The Court's role is to rule on those laws. I will vote "present" on this resolution before us today because I believe strongly in the separate branches of our government and that Congress oversteps our role by denouncing the Court's decision.

ONE FOR TINA DUBLIN

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the wedding anniversary of John and Frances Cuellar, a couple from South Texas who has been married for 50 years.

Mr. Speaker, John Cuellar and Frances Gonzales were both born during the Depression and derived great family values from having little to their name. Family, honesty and love have led them to 50 years of happiness. They met while they were independently involved in the Catholic Youth Organization in Cuero, Texas.

After they met, Mr. Cuellar joined the U.S. Navy and was sent to Maryland. The couple wed on Dec. 28, 1955 while John was home

on leave for Christmas. They both moved to Maryland after their marriage to start their lives together.

After his tour in the Navy was over, Mr. Cuellar joined the Texas Highway Department and then transitioned into law enforcement with the Cuero Police Department. At the close of his professional career, he was employed with the U.S. Marshall's office in Victoria, Texas. Mrs. Cuellar worked as a deputy county clerk and is now retired. She is a licensed nurse and prides herself on being so.

The Cuellar's raised four children, John Jr., Mike, Ronnie and Tina. They have fifteen grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Texas is honored to have such a fine couple who has served Southern Texas faithfully and diligently.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor John and Francis Cuellar and I thank you for this time.

HONORING DOUGLAS W. DODGE

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Douglas W. Dodge of Turlock, CA upon his retirement for his tremendous service to his community. Turlock Police Services will hold an event to honor Captain Dodge on December 15th, 2005.

After returning from service with the United States Army in Vietnam, Douglas Dodge took a position as a reserve officer with the Turlock Police Services in 1973. In September of 1974, he was hired as a full-time Parking Enforcement Officer and worked in this classification for approximately one and one-half years. During this assignment he worked other duties, including property/evidence, dispatch, and identifications for the Investigations Bureau. In February of 1976, he became a full-time sworn police officer and worked patrol and investigations assignments. Over the years he was promoted up through the ranks and in April of 2002 made the rank of Captain.

In 1999, Captain Dodge returned to college to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Business Management. He is a member of the Stanislaus County Peace Officer's Association and an associate member of the California Police Chief's Association. At present, he serves on the Steering Committees for the Ray Simon Regional Criminal Justice Training Center and the Sacramento Valley High Tech Crimes Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Captain Douglas W. Dodge of Turlock, CA for his years of dedicated service. I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Captain Dodge for his tireless efforts and in wishing him many years of continued success.

TRIBUTE TO CARDON AND JOYCE BERRY—2005 MERITORIOUS SERVICE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 14, 2005

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cardon and Joyce Berry, the 2005 4-

H Meritorious Service Award winners. At the 2005 Kiowa County 4-H Achievement Banquet on Friday, November 4, 2005 the Meritorious Service Award was presented to a couple that believe in the 4-H program and the benefits and opportunities it offers to youth. They were both ten-year 4-H members and have devoted numerous years as leaders. They raised two children who were very active in 4-H and are now assisting their grandchildren who are active members in a local club today.

The Berrys made an important decision to have their children participate in 4-H, knowing how much it had meant in their youth. Cardon grew up in Kiowa County and raised his own family in the same home in which he had lived. The 4-H Club he participated in was no more, but the community had once again found itself with many youngsters. The Berrys helped to reinstate the Prairie Queen 4-H Club for the kids who benefited from the experience.

The Berry family is faithful in attending numerous 4-H activities, and have sponsored many trophies over the years. They are both active in many different civic roles within Kiowa County and they make their community a better place.

I am honored to be representing Cardon and Joyce Berry in the U.S. Congress. Individuals like this make 4-H and the youth who participate a valuable asset to the community. I'm sure Kiowa County will be blessed for many more years because of the selflessness of the Berry family.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EDUCATION FOR ALL HANDICAPPED CHILDREN ACT

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 15, 2005

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of this resolution celebrating the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act and reaffirming Congress's support for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

I believe strongly that Congress must provide the funding promised nearly 30 years ago for IDEA and that is why I support legislation that would fully fund this commitment to special education. All American children must have access to a free public education in an environment that is appropriate and supportive.

While this resolution today acknowledges the promise to our states and schools to fund IDEA at 40 percent of the average per pupil expenditure, it fails to address how far we are from making that goal a reality. This Republican-controlled Congress funds IDEA at less than 20 percent of its promise. We owe it to our students, their families, and our communities to make full funding a reality. I will continue to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to fully fund our commitment to special education.

Because of the efforts of families, teachers, and school administrators across the country, we are, today, able to make the needs of students with disabilities a priority. It is time that